

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-06 LAB-01

SIL-01 L-01 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DRC-01 /076 W

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R 171400Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2252

U.S.MISSION BERLIN 386

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

LPMSUL FRANKFURT 743

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJ: CODETERMINATION LEGISLATION VETTER ATTACK ON AMERICAN
CHAMBER POSITION

1.ON OCTOBER 16 FRIEDERICH BECHTLE AND HANS SCHMIDTGEN,
CO CHAIRMEN STUTTGART CHAPTER OF THE ATLANTISCHE
GESELLSCHAFT, PROMINENT LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS, AND
LONG-TIME ASSOCIATES OF CONSULATE GENERAL, EXPRESSED
TO CONSUL GENERAL GREAT CONCERN ABOUT DGB CHAIRMAN
VETTER'S ATTACK ON AMERICAN CHAMBER'S POSITION ON
CODETERMINATION LEGISLATION. BECHTLE ALSO TROUBLED BY
LACK OF FIRM PUBLIC REBUTTLE TO VETTER'S POSITION,
CLAIMING THAT HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT MORNING THAT
OF SIXTY OR SO REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY INVITED
TO TESTIFY ON LEGISLATION IN BUNDESTAG, LARGE NUMBER
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HAD DECLINED OUT OF FEAR OF DGB RETALIATION. HE ALSO

CLAIMED THAT RELATIVELY CONSERVATION PRESS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WAS TREATING SUBJECT GINGERLY. BECHTLE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. IN SOME OFFICIAL CAPACITY WOULD AT LEAST ENDORSE RIGHT OF CHAMBER AS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, RUDOLPH BERNHARD OF "STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN," WHO FREQUENTLY TAKES SPD VIEWPOINT, REFERRED TO VETTER'S "UNFORTUNATE REMARKS....DEMONSTRATING UNION'S INTOLERANCE AND STRIVING FOR MORE POWER" AND TO TENDENCY OF MANY PEOPLE UNDER SLOGAN OF "GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION" TO FORGET THIS ALSO MEANS "GREATER POLITICALIZATION." IN LUKEWARM ARTICLES ON OCTOBER 16 AND 17 ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF CODETERMINATION "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT COORDINATION OF GERMAN LAW WITH LAWS OF OTHER COUNTRIES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NECESSITY FOR CHECKING LEGISLATION AGAINST U.S.-GERMAN TREATY, WITH POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO PAY RESTITUTION TO U.S. FIRMS. OCTOBER 16 ARTICLE CONCLUDES RE LATTER POINT, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING STANDS IN WAY OF PASSING LEGISLATION. IT CITES REPORTED MARCH 13 STATEMENT BY SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE W.D. EBERLE THAT "CODETERMINATION WILL NOT BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN FUTURE INVESTMENT. EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN LAWS. ENTERPRISE ACCEPTS THEM AND LEARNS TO LIVE WITH THEM. THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE IS THE DETERMINING FACTOR FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT." JENKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STUTT00889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740296-0040
From: STUTTGART
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741038/aaaabfwz.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODETERMINATION LEGISLATION VETTER ATTACK ON AMERICAN CHAMBER POSITION
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005